Statement

The Details of items of works of conservation and proper development of Sher Shah Tomb, Sasaram, Bihar during the Financial year 2007-08

	Item of Works	Estimated Amount
(i)	Conservation of Graveyard around the tomb, construction of pathway and other developmental works.	Rs. 5,00,000
(ii)	Conservation of flanking kiosks, boundary wall including development of main entrance of the tomb.	Rs. 5,00,000/-
(iii)	Minor repairs of the monuments and day to day maintenance, clearance of aquatic and chocked outlet and provision of hume pipe to pass out the surplus water from ancient tank to outlet channel.	Rs. 8,00,000/-
(iv)	Provision for Toilet Blocks, store/camp office and fixing of cultural Notice Board etc.	Rs. 5,00,000/-
	TOTAL:	Rs. 23,00,000

Development of historical place in Buxar, Bihar

†4413. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the historical importance of the field of Chausa in Buxar, Bihar;

(b) if so, the related information available in Government archives;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have so far not implemented any scheme to develop this historical place;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government will make and implement a scheme for the development of this historical place; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to National Archives of India, no archival documents are available. However, some information is available in Journals and Gazetteers.

(c) to (f) Such project for Buxar has not been prioritized as project proposals have not been received from State Government.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are examined as per scheme guidelines and approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

Growth in foreign tourist arrivals

4414. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any growth in foreign tourist arrivals in the year, 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken towards achieving full tourism potential?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The foreign tourist arrivals to India in 2006 were estimated at 4.43 million, registering a growth of 13% over 2005.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government include:—

* Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
* Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
* Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
* Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print Media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
* Creation of World Class Collaterals;
* Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;